

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-15 remain in this application, where claims 5 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 11-15 have been added by the present amendment. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference numerals typically

used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such amendments to claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, claims 4-8 are objected to for multiple dependency. In response, claims 4 and 6-8 have been amended to remove the multiple dependency. Further, claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection to claims 4-8 is respectfully requested and examination on the merit is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,774,566 (Honda) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,479,950 (Takahashi). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,404,129 (Hendricx). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Honda. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 and 10 are patentable over Honda and Hendricx for at least the following reasons.

Honda is directed to a high pressure discharge lamp comprises a light-transmissive ceramic discharge vessel having a swollen

portion defining a discharge space. An inner surface of the boundary portion between the swollen portion and the each slender cylindrical portion defines a discontinuous inflection. As clearly shown in FIGs. 1-5, the through-hole 1b1 has a uniform cross-section.

Hendricx is similar to Honda in that conductor 40, 50 (shown in FIG 2) pass through a hole that has a uniform cross-section.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 10 and 12, amongst other patentable elements recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein the feed-through opening has a cross-section that varies along a longitudinal direction.

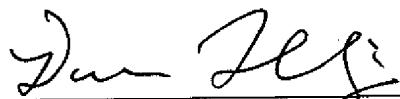
A feed-through opening with a varying cross-section is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Honda, Hendricx, and combination thereof. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 10 and 12 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 6-8, 11-12 and 13-15 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1,

10 and 12.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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